

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 DPW-01 COA-02 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /096 W
----- 105871

R 180741Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3388

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2472

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROK RED CROSS OFFICIAL

1. KNRC VICE PRESIDENT LEE BUM SUK INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE WILL BE VISITING GENEVA, BONN AND ANKARA. LEE IS ALSO ROK CHIEF NEGOTIATOR IN SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

2. LEE SAID HE WOULD BE IN GENEVA APRIL 21-24. AT THAT TIME HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS WITH ICRC OFFICIALS SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS CONFERENCE AND FEB 15 FISHING BOAT INCIDENT IN WHICH NORTH KOREANS SANK ONE BOAT AND CAPTURED ANOTHER WITH ITS CREW. LEE SAID HIS PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO GET BACKGROUND ON NORTH KOREAN DEALINGS WITH ICRC ON SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS CONFERENCE INCLUDING APPARENT ABORTIVE NORTH KOREAN EFFORT IN MARCH TO INVOLVE ICRC IN RESUMPTION OF RED CROSS CONFERENCE (SEOUL 1617). LEE WILL ALSO PRESS ICRC TO URGE RESUMPTION OF CONFERENCE.

3. WITH REGARD FEB 15 FISHING BOAT INCIDENT, LEE SAID HE WILL COUNTER EARLIER CLAIM BY NORTH KOREANS TO ICRC THAT IN PAST YEARS DPRK HAS ALWAYS RELEASED INNOCENT FISHERMEN AND THAT THEY ARE
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HOLDING FISHING BOAT CREW NOW BECAUSE THEY WERE CLEARLY ON

ESPIONAGE MISSION. LEE INTENDS TO GIVE LIST TO ICRC OF SOUTH KOREAN FISHERMEN WHO OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS WERE CAPTURED BY NORTH KOREANS AND NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

4. LEE ALSO SAID THAT FAMILY OF ONE OF THE CAPTURED FISHING BOAT CREW WILL ALSO BE IN GENEVA AT SAME TIME TO APPROACH THE ICRC TO INTERVENE WITH THE NORTH TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE CREW. LEE INDICATED THAT THE FAMILY WILL BE OSTENSIBLY ON ITS OWN AND HE HOPES NOT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THEM DIRECTLY.

5. IN BONN, LEE WILL VISIT THE PRESIDENT OF THE WEST GERMAN RED CROSS, DISCUSSING WITH HIM INFORMALLY THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH EAST EUROPEAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

6. LEE SAID HE WILL BE THE KNRC REP AT THE TURKISH NATIONAL RED CROSS CONVENTION IN ANKARA. ACCORDING TO LEE, THE NORTH KOREANS HAD PRESSED THE TURKISH RED CROSS VERY HARD FOR AN INVITATION TO THE CONVENTION. THE TURKS INFORMALLY SUGGESTED TO THE ROK THAT THEY SEND A REPRESENTATIVE SO THAT THE TURKS COULD THEN REFUSE THE NORTH KOREAN REQUEST ON GROUNDS THAT PRESENCE OF TWO WOULD ONLY LEAD TO INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL STRAINS INTO THE MEETING.
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